

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] BAFF receptors include BAFFR (SEQ ID NO:1), BCMA (SEQ ID NO:7), and TACI (SEQ ID NO:8). In some embodiments, the BAFF antagonist is BAFF-specific (e.g., BAFFR), while in certain other embodiments the BAFF antagonist ~~[[my]]~~ may also bind TNF family ligands other than BAFF (e.g., BCMA and TACI which also bind to APRIL). In some embodiments, the BAFF antagonist is an antibody that blocks BAFF binding to its receptor. Antibodies directed to BAFF and to BAFF receptors have been previously described. Producing such antibodies is well within the skill of a person skilled in the art (see, e.g., Antibody Engineering, ed. Borrebaeck, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 1995). Examples of antibodies for use in the methods of the invention include those described in PCT Publication WO 99/12964 and United States Patent Application No. 09/911,777) and the anti-BAFF antibody LymphoStat-B™ (Human Genome Sciences, Rockville, MD). In further embodiments, the antibody of the invention may specifically bind, besides BAFF or BAFFR, another protein that is substantially identical to BAFF or BAFFR, respectively. In yet further embodiments, antibodies are directed against BCMA and/or TACI. Also contemplated for use in humans are humanized forms and derivatives of nonhuman antibodies derived from any vertebrate species.